

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (John H. Madigan)
MEETING DATE: August 8, 2012

ITEM: **5D**

SUBJECT: **South Bayside System Authority, Wastewater Treatment Plant and Its Wastewater Collection System, Redwood City, San Mateo County - Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

CHRONOLOGY: January 2007 - Permit Reissued

DISCUSSION: This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the South Bayside System Authority's (SBSA) treatment plant, which serves about 217,000 people within the cities of Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, and Woodside, and parts of unincorporated San Mateo County. During dry weather, the plant discharges up to 29 million gallons per day of secondarily-treated wastewater to San Francisco Bay. This discharge is through an outfall approximately 2.3 miles offshore, southeast of the center span of the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge.

SBSA and the San Francisco Baykeeper submitted comments (Appendix B) on a draft permit distributed for review. We prepared responses to their comments (Appendix C), revising the draft in some cases. All revisions are reflected in the Revised Tentative Order.

The most significant comment concerns ammonia. The Baykeeper asks for more stringent limits, such as those applied to discharges south of the Dumbarton Bridge, due to potential nutrient impacts. The Revised Tentative Order's ammonia limits are protective of water quality. We calculated the limits in the same way as all recent permits the Board has adopted for discharges into deep water. The Baykeeper's comparison of SBSA's limits with more stringent limits for discharges south of the Dumbarton is not appropriate since those discharges are to shallow waters where very little initial dilution occurs and thus pose a much greater threat from ammonia toxicity. On the issue of ammonia as a nutrient, we are engaged in ongoing collaborative studies to improve our understanding of nutrient sources and their potential impacts to develop appropriate regulatory and technical responses.

RECOMMEN
DATION: Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

CIWQS Place: 255833 (JHM)

Appendices: A. Revised Tentative Order
B. Comments
C. Response to Comments

APPENDIX A

Revised Tentative Order

APPENDIX B

Comments

APPENDIX C

Response to Comments